

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 20, 2004. Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claim 1, 6, 11, and 12, which are in independent form, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,032,718 (Murakami et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,535 (Meyers). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that amended independent Claims 1, 6, 11, and 12, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the proposed combination of the cited prior art at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an image input apparatus that includes a plurality of photoelectric conversion devices, each of which includes a two-dimensional array of photoelectric conversion areas. A light guide member of the apparatus guides light to be incident on the two-dimensional array of the photoelectric conversion areas of the plurality of photoelectric conversion devices. The light guide member includes a connection member for electrically connecting the plurality of photoelectric conversion devices with each other to transmit an electrical signal between the plurality of photoelectric conversion devices. The plurality of photoelectric conversion devices are bonded to the light guide member using adhesive.

Among other important features of Claim 1 is that the light guide member (see, e.g., Fig. 2, reference numeral 3) includes a connection member (see, e.g., Fig. 5, reference numeral 300) for electrically connecting the plurality of photoelectric conversion

devices with each other to transmit an electrical signal between the plurality of photoelectric conversion devices (see, e.g., Fig. 1, reference numeral 1). The plurality of photoelectric conversion devices are bonded to the light guide member using adhesive.

Murakami, as understood by Applicant, relates to a photo sensor array and reader with hexagonal fiber bundles. The Office Action states at pages 2 and 3 that Murakami discloses “. . . a light guide member (fiber optic plate - 1 - of figure 3) for guiding light to be incident on the photoelectric conversion areas included in the photoelectric conversion device, wherein said light guide member (1) includes [a] connection/transmission member (first and second electrodes - 2 and 4, respectively - of figures 1, 5d, and 7a) electrically connected to the photoelectric device (3) so as to transmit electrical signals between the photoelectric conversion device (see column 5, lines 28 - 31) and the light guide member (1), wherein the fiber optic plate (1) and the photoelectric conversion device are bonded together using adhesive (15; see figure 6).”

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in this section, or any other section, of Murakami that would teach or suggest a connection member for electrically connecting the plurality of photoelectric conversion devices with each other to attain the signal transmission therebetween. In addition, nothing has been found in Murakami that would teach or suggest the light guide member which includes the

connection member. In this regard, Applicant notes that electrodes 2 and 4 of Murakami¹, which are referred to by the Examiner as a connection member, are mere electrodes that form a pixel and thus are distinguishable from the connection member recited in amended independent Claim 1. Moreover, Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Meyers, and nothing has been stated in the Office Action, that would teach or suggest the light guide member which includes the connection member recited in amended independent Claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the cited references of Murakami et al. and Meyers, when taken separately or in any proper combination, would not teach the present invention recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Independent Claims 6, 11, and 12 include the same features of a light guide member that includes a connection member for electrically connecting the plurality of photoelectric conversion devices with each other to transmit an electrical signal between the plurality of photoelectric conversion devices, as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 6, 11, and 12 are believed to be patentable

The other rejected claims in this application depend from Claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same

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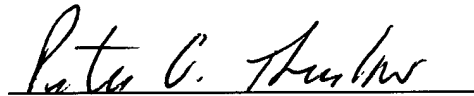
FIGS. 1 and 2 show a first embodiment of a photo sensor array of the present invention. In FIGS. 1 and 2, a photo sensor array comprises a transparent substrate 1 constituting a fiber array portion A comprising an optical fiber portion 5, and a sensor portion B composed of a *first transparent electrode 2* (emphasis added), a semiconductor layer 3 and a *second electrode 4* (emphasis added). The first electrode 2, semiconductor layer 3 and second electrode are formed on the substrate 1 in this order (col. 2, lines 23-31).

reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Thurlow", is written over a horizontal line.

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